UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1991/43
31 January 1991

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 16

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 38/14 of 22 November 1983, proclaimed the 10-year period beginning on 10 December 1984 the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The General Assembly also approved the Programme of Action for the Second Decade annexed to the resolution, and called upon all States to co-operate in its implementation. The General Assembly also requested the Economic and Social Council to take charge, with the help of the Secretary-General, of co-ordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action and of evaluating the activities undertaken during the Second Decade.

2. The Programme of Action for the Second Decade covers, inter alia: action to combat apartheid; education, teaching and training; dissemination of information and the role of the mass media in combating racism and racial discrimination; measures for the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons belonging to minority groups, indigenous populations and peoples and migrant workers who are subjected to racial discrimination; recourse procedures for victims of racial discrimination; implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 (XX) A of 21 December 1965, annex) and related international instruments; national legislation and institutions; seminars and studies; action by non-governmental organizations; and international co-operation.

3. The General Assembly, by its resolution 39/16 of 23 November 1984, invited the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of the plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade (see A/39/167-E/1984/33 and Add.1-2).

4. By its resolution 42/47 of 30 November 1987, the General Assembly urgently requested the Secretary-General to ensure the effective and immediate implementation of the activities proposed for the first half of the Decade which had not yet been undertaken, approved the plan of activities proposed for the period 1990-1993 contained in the annex to the resolution, and invited the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of the plan.

5. The Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 1985/11 of 26 February 1985, requested the Secretary-General to inform it annually of the progress made in carrying out the plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 so that it could make its contribution thereto. In its resolution 1990/13 of 23 February 1990, the Commission reiterated this request and made a similar request to the Secretary-General in connection with the plan of activities for the period 1990-1993.

6. The present report has been prepared in accordance with the foregoing requests.

I. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

7. By its resolution 1990/13, the Commission on Human Rights urged all States and international organizations to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the implementation of the plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 not yet undertaken and of the plan of activities for the period 1990-1993 listed in the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/47

of 30 November 1987; it appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, so as to enable the Secretary-General to implement the various programme elements outlined in the plan of activities for 1990-1993. The Commission also requested the Secretary-General to inform it of the measures taken, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/47, to ensure the inclusion in the bienniums 1990-1991 and 1992-1993 of sufficient resources to provide for implementation of the activities of the Second Decade; it also requested the Secretary-General to inform it annually of the progress made in carrying out the above-mentioned plan of activities so that the Commission can make its contribution thereto.

8. The Commission further took note with satisfaction of General Assembly resolution 44/52 of 8 December 1989, in which the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Economic and Social Council to submit annual reports to it on the activities undertaken to achieve the objectives of the Second Decade.

9. The Commission also decided to give thematic consideration, each year, to a selected topic within the plan of activities for 1990-1993, as listed in the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/47 of 30 November 1987, and decided that the topic for 1992 should be "Treatment of political prisoners and detainees in South Africa, particularly women and children".

10. The Commission took note with satisfaction of the study by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Mr. Asbjorn Eide, on the results achieved and the obstacles encountered during the First Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the first half of the Second Decade (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/8 and Add.1), decided to transmit it to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session and recommended that it be published and distributed on as wide a scale as possible; it also took note with satisfaction of the report of the International Seminar on Cultural Dialogue Between the Countries of Origin and the Host Countries of Migrant Workers held at Athens from 18 to 26 September 1989 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/50) and requested the Secretary-General to give it wide distribution among Governments, competent United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

11. The Commission further requested the Secretary-General to organize in 1990 a meeting of representatives of national institutions and organizations promoting tolerance and harmony and combating racism and racial discrimination with a view to exchanging experience on the promotion of such objectives.

12. In addition, the Commission emphasized the importance of adequate recourse procedures for victims of racism and racial discrimination and once again requested the Secretary-General, in the light of the results of the seminars held on that topic, to prepare and finalize, with the assistance of qualified experts, a handbook of recourse procedures.

13. The Commission invited the Secretary-General to ensure the effective implementation of those activities proposed for the first half of the Decade that have not yet been undertaken and to proceed with the implementation of the activities for the period 1990-1993 listed in the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/47.

II. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

14. During its first regular session of 1990, the Economic and Social Council considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination". The Council examined the annual report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/1990/20 and Add.1-3); this report, in addition to information supplied by Governments, includes information about activities within the United Nations system, and information submitted by regional organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status. The report also contained information on activities of the Co-ordinator for the Second Decade.

15. The Council adopted resolution 1990/49 of 24 May 1990, in which it reaffirmed the importance of achieving the objectives of the Second Decade and the necessity of co-ordinating the activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies for the purpose of implementing the Programme of Action for the Second Decade; it also reaffirmed the need for continued co-ordination of the full range of programmes as being implemented by the United Nations system as they relate to the objectives of the Second Decade.

16. The Council welcomed the emerging political climate inside South Africa which has the potential to create conditions that are conducive to the abolition of the system of apartheid in that country. In this connection, the Council called upon Governments to encourage positive change in South Africa based on the guidelines set out in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa (General Assembly resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989) and in particular by maintaining existing measures against South Africa until there is clear evidence of profound and irreversible change.

17. The Council further invited all Governments to take or continue to take all necessary measures to combat all forms of racism and racial discrimination and to support the work of the Second Decade by making contributions to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

18. The Council also emphasized the importance of public information activities in combating racism and racial discrimination and in mobilizing public support for the objectives of the Second Decade and, in that context, commended the efforts of the Co-ordinator for the Second Decade.

19. Concerning the plan of activities of the Second Decade, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to ensure the effective and immediate implementation of those activities proposed for the first half of the Decade that had not yet been undertaken, invited the Secretary-General to continue with the implementation of the activities for the period 1990-1993 listed in the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/47, and requested the Secretary-General, in that context, to accord the highest priority to measures to combat apartheid.

20. The Council also requested the Secretary-General, in his reports, to continue to pay special attention to the situation of migrant workers and their families.

III. SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

21. At its forty-second session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities examined the question of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and discussed the recommendations contained in the final study by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Asbjorn Eide, on his study of the achievements made and obstacles encountered during the First Decade and the second half of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/8 and Add.1). The Sub-Commission adopted two resolutions on this subject. In resolution 1990/1, it emphasized the obligation of the international community to take urgent measures to eradicate apartheid completely, and to combat all other forms of racism and racial discrimination, including those practised against indigenous peoples, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups in society. The Sub-Commission confirmed the importance, in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, of a complementarity of economic, social, education and information measures at the national level, including legislative, administrative and penal measures, and of measures taken at the international level; it further recognized the important role that can be played in this regard by the Sub-Commission, as well as the need for more effective co-ordination between the Centre for Human Rights and operational activities for development.

22. The Sub-Commission recommended that the General Assembly should take appropriate steps, in due course, to launch a Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in 1993; it requested the Secretary-General to organize, at the forty-third session of the Sub-Commission, a joint meeting for one day with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; it also requested the Secretary-General to consider ways and means necessary to respond to urgent situations and new trends involving racism or racial discrimination, in any part of the world, and to prepare an outline, for consideration by the Sub-Commission at its forty-third session, of possible activities for increasing the effectiveness of United Nations action to combat racism and racial discrimination, reflecting the principles contained in this resolution.

23. By its resolution 1990/2, the Sub-Commission expressed again its appreciation to the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Asbjorn Eide, for his valuable, wide-ranging and useful study on the achievements made and obstacles encountered during the Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and decided to transmit the recommendations contained in his study, as revised in the light of the discussion at the present session of the Sub-Commission, to the Secretary-General so that they may be taken into account in further efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination; it also emphasized the need to give an additional thrust towards the achievement of the goals of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and to contribute to the eradication of the recent upsurge of racist, prejudicial, discriminatory, intolerant and xenophobic attitudes and actions against vulnerable human groups in various parts of the world.

24. In the same resolution, the Sub-Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of replies obtained from Governments, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as from non-governmental organizations, an overview of current trends

of racism, discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia affecting the above-mentioned groups, as well as of measures taken by Governments against those phenomena and the effects of such measures and to submit the overview for consideration by the Sub-Commission at its forty-third session. Furthermore, the Sub-Commission decided to give thorough consideration at its forty-third session, and in the light of these new trends, to the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur to update the study on racial discrimination prepared in 1976 by Mr. Hernan Santa Cruz.

IV. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly, in connection with its consideration of the agenda item on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, had before it the report originally submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1990 (see para. 14 above). In addition, the General Assembly had before it the report of the Secretary-General, A/45/443, on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

26. After consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/105. The General Assembly decided that the international community in general and the United Nations in particular should continue to give the highest priority to programmes for combating racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, and to intensify their efforts, during the Second Decade, to provide assistance and relief to the victims of racism and all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid, especially in South Africa and Namibia and in occupied territories and territories under alien domination. It appealed to all Governments and to international and non-governmental organizations to increase and intensify their activities to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and to provide relief and assistance to the victims of those evils.

27. The General Assembly took note of the reports submitted by the Secretary-General containing information on the activities of Governments, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as of United Nations organs, to give effect to the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

28. It also noted and commended the efforts made to co-ordinate all the programmes currently under implementation by the United Nations system relating to the objectives of the Decade and encouraged the Co-ordinator for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to continue his efforts.

29. In addition, the General Assembly welcomed the upcoming publication of the Global Compilation of National Legislation against Racism and Racial Discrimination (HR/PUB/1990/8) and requested the Secretary-General to transmit this publication to Governments as soon as possible; it also requested the Secretary-General to publish the study of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Asbjorn Eide, on the results achieved and the obstacles encountered during the First Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and during the first half of the Second Decade (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/8 and Add.1) and to distribute the publication on as wide a scale as possible.

30. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue the study on the effects of racial discrimination on the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers, in the field of education, training and employment, and to submit, inter alia, specific recommendations for the implementation of measures to combat the effects of such discrimination, and renewed its invitation to UNESCO to expedite the preparation of teaching materials and teaching aids to promote teaching, training and educational activities on human rights and against racism and racial discrimination, with particular emphasis on activities at the primary and secondary levels of education. Furthermore, the General Assembly welcomed the progress made in preparing model legislation for the guidance of Governments in the enactment of further legislation against racial discrimination and requested the Secretary-General to finalize the text of the model legislation and the handbook of recourse procedures for victims of racial discrimination and to publish and distribute those texts as soon as possible.

31. The General Assembly regretted that parts of the Programme for 1985-1989 had not yet been implemented because of lack of adequate resources as indicated in the Secretary-General's report to the Council (E/1990/50), and requested him to implement immediately those activities for the period 1985-1989 that had not yet been carried out and to proceed with the implementation of the activities scheduled for the biennium 1990-1991; it affirmed once again the need for the implementation of the plan of activities for 1990-1993 contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/47; it requested, therefore, the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 42/47 and 44/52 to ensure that the necessary and additional resources are included in the proposed programme budgets for the bienniums 1990-1991 and 1992-1993 to provide the implementation of the activities of the Second Decade and requested him to inform the General Assembly of the steps taken in that regard.

32. The General Assembly also strongly appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and, to that end, requested the Secretary-General to continue to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions.

V. CO-ORDINATING ACTIVITIES OF THE SECOND DECADE

33. The General Assembly, in paragraph 5 of its resolutions 44/52 and 45/105, took note of the efforts made to co-ordinate the programmes currently under implementation by the United Nations system as they related to the objectives of the Second Decade, and encouraged the Co-ordinator for the Second Decade, Mr. Jan Martenson, to continue his efforts in that respect. Pursuant to that mandate, the Co-ordinator continues to initiate and maintain contacts at the senior level within the various offices of the United Nations with a view to co-ordinating the activities already under way or planned, and identifying areas in which new initiatives might be taken. Details on the activities of the Co-ordinator are contained in the Secretary-General's report to the Economic and Social Council (E/1990/20, paras. 43-53), and in the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly (A/45/443, paras. 25-33).

A. Inter-agency consultation

34. An inter-agency consultation on the co-ordination of activities of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was convened by the Co-ordinator on 17 May 1990 at Geneva. A wide range of United Nations offices and specialized agencies were invited to participate in the Consultation. Representatives from the Centre against Apartheid, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization liaison office in Geneva, World Health Organization, International Labour Organisation and the Centre for Human Rights participated in the Consultation.

35. The following four points were suggested for discussion:

(a) Review of specific activities to combat racism and racial discrimination in the period 1990-1993;

(b) Suggestions of unexplored areas where activities or programmes could be initiated;

(c) Suggestions for activities which could be carried out jointly in co-operation with the various bodies or Secretariat units;

(d) Suggestions for improving co-ordination and co-operation in the future.

36. In opening the discussion, the Co-ordinator reviewed past and upcoming activities of the Centre for Human Rights in implementing the programme of activities of the Second Decade. He also pointed out that racism and racial discrimination were relevant to all sectors of United Nations activity. Racism was a negative element hindering the full achievement of the technical programmes of the United Nations. Such programmes could not be fully successful in a world where millions of human beings were denied full participation in the benefits of science and technology by reason of their race. Scientific and technical progress was also hindered because many gifted individuals were excluded from education and access to scientific careers by reason of race. The Second Decade had been proclaimed by the General Assembly as a vehicle for bringing about the end of racism and the General Assembly placed great store in the effectiveness of enhanced co-operation within the United Nations system as a means of increasing the impact of each area's struggle against racism.

37. During the discussion participants reviewed the activities of their respective organizations in the struggle against racism. The desirability of improved communication and co-ordination between the separate agencies and bodies within their respective mandates was recognized and the idea of periodic meetings of consultation was welcomed. A number of suggestions for further discussion were made for improving co-ordination with the concerned agencies and bodies. These suggestions are as follows:

(a) The joint organization of seminars and research projects on the impact of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, such as the rights of migrant workers and their families, minorities, refugees, cultural and economic rights, and other topics;

(b) The possibility of jointly establishing a United Nations data base on the research, documentation and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies relating to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. This computerized data bank would be open for on-line access to the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariats of specialized agencies, Permanent Missions, Governments, universities, the press and the general public. It would facilitate the co-ordination of activities and ease access to information, thereby increasing the impact of the several activities;

(c) The designation of focal points within each secretariat unit to maintain contact on issues relating to racism and racial discrimination as a method of improving practical co-operation and advance planning in this area;

(d) The organization of a meeting of the staff responsible for activities related to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid in the United Nations and the specialized agencies, on an annual basis, to discuss plans and projects, avoid duplication and improve mutual assistance.

B. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

38. During the thirty-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held at Geneva from 6 to 24 August 1990, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and Co-ordinator for Second Decade activities met with the Committee to discuss the current dimensions of racism in the world, United Nations activities against racial discrimination, and in particular the activities of the Second Decade, the work of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and possible ways of improving the impact of the Organization's activities against racial discrimination. The Co-ordinator made suggestions regarding the study of specific themes relating to racism by the Committee, and possible ways of improving the submission of information and co-operation between the Committee, the Sub-Commission and the Human Rights Committee. In the latter context the possibility of joint meetings on common topics was raised as a way of improving co-ordination.

39. The Committee at its thirty-eighth session took a number of decisions relating to its futute work under its agenda item on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In particular, the Committee agreed to request the Secretary-General to arrange a one-day joint meeting in August 1991 between members of the Committee and members of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of MInorities. The purpose of the meeting would be to exchange views on the prevention of racial discrimination. Discussions at the meeting were to be based upon written contributions prepared in advance by selected participants to reflect past experience in CERD and review particular problems. Two such problems were identified. One was the conflict between the right to protection from racial discrimination and certain other fundamental rights and freedoms. The other was the question of racial discrimination in relation to the distinction between citizens and non-citizens. It was agreed that the Chairman should discuss the programme for the joint meeting with the Chairman of the Sub-Commission.

40. With regard to the future, the Committee noted that the Second Decade was due to terminate in 1993 so that consideration must soon be given to whatever programme was to follow. The Committee had, for 20 years, played a central

part in assembling and evaluating experience in this field and was ready to play an active part in the remainder of the Second Decade and in any successive programme. The Committee was of the opinion that any future programme should concentrate upon the universalization of action. In the first place, there should be greater effort to secure universal accession to the Convention. In the second place, the Committee would try to see universality of implementation.

41. Finally, the Committee discussed and welcomed the compilation of additional legislations against racial discrimination prepared under the Decade's programme and the intention to prepare model legislation against racism and racial discrimination.

VI. SEMINARS AND TRAINING COURSES

A. Seminar on the political, historical, economic, social and cultural factors contributing to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid

42. The Programme of Action as developed by the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 38/14 of 22 November 1983, called for the organization of a seminar on political, historical, economic, social and cultural factors leading to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. The Commission on Human Rights, by its resolutions 1987/12 and 1988/16, on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, requested the Secretary-General to organize such a seminar.

43. Pursuant to the Commission's request, the seminar was organized and held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, from 10 to 14 December 1990. The agenda of the Seminar was as follows:

I. Causes and current manifestations of racism

(a) Historical factors contributing to racism and racial discrimination;

(b) Economic factors contributing to racism and racial discrimination;

(c) Political factors contributing to racism and racial discrimination;

(d) Social and cultural factors contributing to racism and racial discrimination.

II. Racism today: overview and interrelationship of causes and manifestations.

III. Conclusions and recommendations; action at the national and international levels.

44. Under all items, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid were to be examined from the perspective of the following vulnerable groups:

(a) Ethnic and racial groups;
(b) Indigenous populations;
(c) Migrant workers and their families;
(d) Religious groups;
(e) Women.

45. Participants were invited from the following countries: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe. Specialized agencies having an interest in the subject matter, various United Nations organs, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were also invited to participate at the seminar.

46. The Centre for Human Rights invited the following five experts to lecture, lead discussions, prepare background papers and to act as resource persons: Mrs. Tatjana Ansbach (Germany), Mr. Asbjorn Eide (Norway), Mr. Paul Gordon Lauren (United States), Mrs. Purificación Quisumbing (Philippines) and Mr. Henry V.H. Sekyi (Ghana). The seminar elected as its Chairman Mr. Agha Shahi (Pakistan), who is also the Chairman of the Committee against Racial Discrimination.

47. The Co-ordinator for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Jan Martenson, addressed the seminar on the overall efforts of the United Nations to combat racism and racial discrimination with specific focus on apartheid. He pointed out that in spite of the undertaking of Member States, as expressed in the United Nations Charter and the numerous international declarations and treaties, to ensure the equal rights of all discrimination was unfortunately still very much a part of the lives of many millions of people throughout the world. He referred in particular to serious discrimination against immigrants, migrant workers, gypsies, indigenous populations and minorities, and to the rise of anti-semitism and xenophobia in the world.

48. The Co-ordinator stated that since the very first years of the United Nations the policy of racial separation known as apartheid has been the object of increasing concern. Apartheid constituted the systematic denial to the majority of the population of South Africa of the most elemental human rights inherent in human dignity and it also posed a very real and menacing danger for regional stability and peace. It was a system based on the illusion that the black people of Africa were somehow inferior to the white population. Although this was manifestly absurd, the architects of apartheid had devised a system of subjugation of the majority population designed to make it impossible for them to enjoy the essential elements of human dignity such as family life, dignified work, access to education, and the hope of a better life for their children. With great courage, the people of South Africa continued to demonstrate their inherent dignity through their continuous struggle against that system which gave the lie each day to the theories of the proponents of apartheid.

49. Mr. Martenson said, in this context, that one of the basic social tools which could be used to bring about change in general was a law that made discrimination illegal and legal norms which should be enforced. This was important both because respect for human dignity required it and because the law and its enforcement were powerful tools of education. Greater attention must be paid in the future to education and the creation of a climate of mutual tolerance and understanding between different communities. In this context, the Co-ordinator said that we must remember the value of the different cultures of our globe and that each was an important part of the common heritage of all. Sensitivity training in the early school years and the broader-based community action programmes were important tools to achieve this objective. Here, experience had shown the valuable contribution that community relations commissions could have and their widespread use could be recommended.

50. The Co-ordinator further stated that consideration might be given to setting up community relations commissions not only in areas where tensions had actually manifested themselves but also as a general mechanism in all communities. Such commissions could reinforce existing inter-group understanding and identify at an early stage the seeds of future tensions so as to act preventively. In addition, constant research into the continuously evolving situation in each country would help in achieving a better understanding of the processes leading to tension or contributing to tolerance. Education in the broad sense based on this research could help diverse sectors of a society better understand their relations with each other. Many false notions of one community with regard to another could thus be eliminated. In addition, a national inventory of existing and potential problem areas could be maintained and specific action in the areas of immigrants, migrant workers, minorities, indigenous populations and other vulnerable groups could be undertaken. Consideration should be given to the establishment of a national ombudsman in the field of racial discrimination.

51. The Co-ordinator informed the seminar about the joint decision of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to hold a one-day joint meeting in 1991 to discuss issues relating to racial discrimination and said that this meeting would certainly reinforce the actions of each and would give more force to the general United Nations programme.

52. The Commission will have before it for consideration the report of the seminar which contains various recommendations for action (E/CN.4/1991/63).

B. Other seminars, training courses or workshops

53. The issues relating to combating racism and racial discrimination have been and will continue to be emphasized through the various workshops, regional and national training courses, seminars and other events held within the framework of the advisory services and external relations components of the work programme of the Centre for Human Rights during 1990-1991. The following seminars, workshops, regional and national training courses are planned to take place throughout 1991: Training course on the implementation of international human rights instruments and the administration of justice for officials of African countries; Training course for Arab countries of North Africa and the Middle East on reporting obligations under international human rights treaties; Workshops on national institutions for the promotion

and protection of human rights; National training course on the application of United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures; Regional workshops on the adoption of legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination; Meeting of representatives of national institutions and organizations to promote tolerance and harmony, and to combat racism and racial discrimination; Technical conference on practical experience in the realization of sustainable and environmentally sound self-development by indigenous peoples; Meeting of experts to review the experience of countries in the operation of schemes of internal self-government for indigenous populations; and a seminar on human rights of persons belonging to ethnic groups in countries of immigration.

VII. NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

54. The Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 38/14 of 22 November 1983, assigns a key role to national institutions and national legislation in the fight to prevent or redress and eliminate racism and racial discrimination. In this regard, the General Assembly in its resolution 40/22 of 21 November 1985 invited the Secretary-General to prepare and issue as soon as possible a global compilation of national legislation against racism and racial discrimination. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly took note of the report on the global compilation prepared by the Secretary-General (A/43/637) and requested him to publish that compilation and to transmit it to Governments as soon as possible. The compilation has subsequently been published under the symbol HR/PUB/1990/8.

55. In addition, the Secretary-General is preparing model legislation for the guidance of Governments in the enactment of further legislation against racial discrimination. A draft text of this legislation will be submitted to the Committee on the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination for observation and comments. It is also the Secretary-General's intention to proceed as rapidly as resources permit with the preparation of a handbook of recourse procedures for victims of racism and racial discrimination and the preparation of a manual of existing national institutions promoting tolerance and harmony and combating racism and racial discrimination (A/39/167, para. 25).

VIII. PLAN OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE SECOND DECADE

A. Plan of activities for the first half of the Second Decade, 1985-1989

56. At the request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General submitted to it at its thirty-ninth session a plan of activities for the period 1985 to 1989 for implementing the Programme of Action for the Second Decade. In its resolution 39/16 of 23 November 1984, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to proceed immediately with the implementation of those activities. In its resolution 45/105, the General Assembly urgently requested the Secretary-General to ensure the effective and immediate implementation of the activities proposed for the first half of the Decade which had not yet been undertaken. As reflected in the Secretary-General's reports submitted to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council, various activities of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade have so far been implemented. Particular consideration was given to the organization of

international and regional seminars pursuant to paragraph 53 of the Programme of Action. With regard to studies to be prepared by the Secretary-General or by the relevant human rights bodies, reference may be made to the study on the role of private group action submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-first, forty-third and forty-fourth sessions (A/41/500, A/43/631 and A/44/575), the final study on the achievements made and obstacles encountered during the Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/8 and Add.1) and to the publication of the Global Compilation of National Legislation against Racial Discrimination (HR/PUB/1990/8).

B. Plan of activities for the second half of the Second Decade, 1990-1993

57. In its resolution 42/47, the General Assembly approved the proposed plan of activities for the period 1990 to 1993 set out in the annex to that resolution, and invited the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of those activities, and to accord the highest priority, in executing the plan of activities, to measures for combating apartheid.

58. The following activities are called for during the biennium 1990-1991:

(a) Global survey of the extent to which the children of migrant workers are able to receive education in their mother tongue;

(b) Meeting of experts to review national experience in the operation of schemes of local, internal self-government for indigenous populations;

(c) Expert study on the impact of article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (see General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) in providing guarantees of equality to persons belonging to minorities;

(d) Regional workshops on the adoption of legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination;

(d) Seminar on community relations commissions and their functions;

59. The following activities are called for during the biennium 1992-1993:

(a) Round table of experts to discuss the preparation of teaching materials to combat racism and racial discrimination;

(b) Issuance in three additional languages of the handbook of recourse procedures available to victims of racism and racial discrimination;

(c) Two regional workshops on the adoption of legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination;

(d) International campaign on the main obstacles to the full eradication of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, and on ways and means of bringing about the early disappearance of these scourges;

(e) Study on the treatment of political prisoners and detainees in South Africa and Namibia, particularly women and children;

(f) Global survey on the extent of dissemination of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

60. Concern that the necessary resources would be made available to enable the Centre for Human Rights to fulfil the various mandates given to it relating to the prevention and elimination of racial discrimination was reflected in the conclusions and suggestions of the Global Consultation on Racism and Racial Discrimination in the following terms: "While satisfaction was expressed with the work of the Centre for Human Rights, it was agreed that the Centre should be strengthened in order to enable it to discharge even more effectively its growing responsibility, not least in the field of combating racism, racial discrimination and apartheid" (E/1989/48, para. 60 (g)). In addition, the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1990/13 requested the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/47, to ensure that sufficient resources were included in the proposed programme budgets for the bienniums 1990-1991 and 1992-1993 to provide for implementation of the activities of the Second Decade. The General Assembly, for its part, in its resolution 44/52 and again in resolution 45/105, requested the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient additional resources are included in the proposed programme budgets for the bienniums 1990-1991 and 1992-1993 to provide for the implementation of the activities of the Second Decade and requested him to inform the General Assembly of the steps taken in that regard.

61. The implementation of the various activities of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade and the two plans of activities is of the highest importance and every effort is being made, to the extent permitted by available resources, to implement each activity as scheduled. The situation and developments regarding the logistical and human rights resources support for the activities of the Centre for Human Rights in the field of human rights was the subject of a report presented by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1990 (E/1990/50), which included a discussion of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade (para. 31), and of General Assembly resolution 45/180. One important element in the Centre's future capacity to implement the various activities under this programme will be adequacy of the resources placed at its disposal.

IX. TRUST FUND FOR THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

62. The General Assembly has repeatedly appealed, most recently in its resolution 45/105, to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund and, to this end, requested the Secretary-General to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions.

63. Since the period covered by the last report of the Secretary-General (see A/44/595 (31 August 1989 to 1 September 1990)), the following States have contributed to the Trust Fund for the Second Decade:
Republic of Korea, $3,000; Swaziland, $760, and Japan, $10,000. The balance available (as of 1 September 1990) is approximately $50,800.

64. The current status of the Trust Fund continues to be far from encouraging despite the repeated appeals for voluntary contributions made by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General. Further contributions are urgently needed to provide the much needed supplementary resources required to implement the various activities envisaged in the Programme of Action for the Second Decade.